building on common values and interests, enhancing cooperation for the economy, for energy and environment, for democracy and development, for non-proliferation and security and for high technology, space and civilian nuclear energy. Regional and global issues of significance were also discussed. No agreements were signed during the visit.

(b) President Bush conveyed to the Prime Minister that he will work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India, adjusting US laws and policies and international regimes, expeditiously considering fuel supplies for Tarapur and considering India's participation in the ITER fusion project and the Generation IV advanced reactors programme. India's candidature for permanent membership of the U.N. Security Council was taken up during the talks. President Bush expressed the view that international institutions are going to have to adapt to reflect India's central and growing role. On India-Pakistan relations, the President declared that it was for the two countries to discuss and resolve their problems.

(c) The impact of the discussions and undestandings on Indo-US relations was positive. The visit has contributed to an enhancement of India's position in the global arena and to a better understanding of the situation in the Indian sub-continent.

(d) President Bush has accepted an invitation from the Prime Minister to visit India in 2006.

Change in US policy towards India

1162. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prior to Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States, Indian Foreign Secretary and Scientist Advisor to PM had visited the U.S. in May, 2005 for exploring prospects of reviving the Indo-U.S. atomic energy cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between the leaders of two countries and outcome thereof;

(c) whether India finds any major change in the U.S. policy of sharing with us nuclear power need, developing of new sources of energy efficiency nuclear technology etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Indian Foreign Secretary visited US in May, 2005 to lead the Indian delegation for the India-US Global Issues Forum. Scientific Advisor to PM visited US in May, 2005 to attend the Annual General Meeting of Industrial Research Institute in Tucson, Arizona. Resumption of bilateral civilian nuclear energy cooperation was discussed during Foreign Secretary's visit.

(b) to (d) Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing global energy demands in a cleaner and more efficient manner, Prime Minister during his recent US visit, discussed with President Bush, India's plans to develop its civilian nuclear energy programme. President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such States. The President told the Prime Minister he would seek agreement from Congress to adjust U.S. laws and policies, and the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. In the meantime, the United States will encourage its partners to also consider India's request for its inclusion in ITER and Generation IV International Forum. The Prime Minister conveyed that for his part, India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States.

Special envoy for release of Indians held in neighbouring countries

1163. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to appoint a special envoy to negotiate on behalf of Government to secure the release of Indians being held/imprisoned in our neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to establish/set up an office of special envoy for humanitarian issues;